

Report by the Government Statist for the information of the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

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A general review of the records of the Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15 to 1920-21, the Drink Bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population, fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1922-23, the value consumed remained practically the same, but last year there was an increase in the convictions for drunkenness, *the number per 1000 of population being the highest since 1916*

For the year ended June 30th 1923, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £2,541,279 equal to £4-19-0 per inhabitant, compared with £2,481,039 or £4-18-9 per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,289,119 or £2-17-7 per inhabitant in 1914-15.

The quantities consumed per inhabitant for the year 1922-23 were Beer 10.59 (10.97) galls, Spirits .34 (.31) pf. galls., compared with the year 1914-15 - Beer 12.10 galls., Spirits .48 pf. galls. The consumption of Wine has been estimated each year at .75 galls. per inhabitant.

In 1922 there were 3,764 (3,443) convictions for drunkenness equalling 7.44 (6.92) per 1,000 of the mean population. This is a most satisfactory record compared with pre-war records - 1913, 5,962 cases 13.63 per 1,000 of population and 1914, 5,243 cases 11.77 per 1,000 of population, a fall from 13.63 to 7.44 per 1,000 inhabitants from 1913 to 1922.

Commonwealth Revenue. The net Customs and Excise Duties in this State for Alcoholic Beverages was £953,664 (£898,598).

Summarised, the following are the details.-

Year	Drink Bill		Galls. consumed per inhabitant.		Year	Drunkenness.	
	Total	Per Inhab.	Beer	Spirits		Convictions.	Per 1,000 Inhab.
	£	£ s d	Galls	pf. Galls		Number	Number
1914-15	1,289,119	2-17- 7	12.10	.48	1914	5,243	11.77
1918-19	1,897,792	4- 2-11	12.04	.38	1918	3,298	7.30
1919-20	2,164,597	4- 9-11	13.58	.36	1919	3,171	6.77
1920-21	2,453,088	4-19-11	12.29	.30	1920	3,448	7.08
1921-22	2,481,039	4-18- 9	10.97	.31	1921	3,443	6.92
1922-23	2,541,279	4-19- 0	10.59	.34	1922	3,764	7.44

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GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
15th November, 1923.